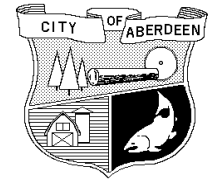


March 23, 2020



## **Novel Coronavirus and COVID – 19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**\*\*Updated Information is available through a link on the City's website:**

<https://aberdeenwa.gov/>

1. What is COVID-19?
  - a. COVID-19 is a respiratory viral disease caused by the novel coronavirus; it has spread to all fifty states in the United States. Washington State has been particularly hard hit with nearly 2,000 confirmed cases resulting in 95 deaths statewide.
2. How many cases of COVID-19 are in our community?
  - a. There has been one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Grays Harbor County, and no deaths.
  - b. Washington State has a website dedicated to providing technical and health-related information about COVID-19 that is updated regularly. The website is:  
<https://www.coronavirus.wa.gov/>
3. What can I do to protect myself and my community?
  - a. Follow public health advisories to practice social distancing, respiratory etiquette, and frequent handwashing.
  - b. Be compassionate as people are reacting to this situation differently, and may need extra patience.
  - c. Obtain best available information and updates from CDC:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or Washington Department of Health: <https://www.coronavirus.wa.gov/> or Grays Harbor Public Health:  
<http://www.healthygh.org/covid19>
4. Where does the City get its information to respond to COVID-19?
  - a. As a municipal government agency, the City is following all recommendations and orders from the Governor's Office; and all recommendations from the CDC, State, and Local Public Health Agencies.
    - i. The City is also relying on the Grays Harbor County Public Health and Social Services department to provide timely updates and advice. Their website regarding coronavirus is regularly updated and is:  
<http://www.healthygh.org/covid19>
  - b. The City is actively participating on the Grays Harbor County Public Health Incident Management Team, which is organized under the Grays Harbor County Emergency Management Plan. In this way, we are able to coordinate with other communities to ensure a unified response to this public health situation.
5. What is the City doing to protect public health during COVID-19?
  - a. In response to advice from federal, state, and local public health agencies, the City is following social distancing protocols. This means that for the immediate future:
    - i. Public Meetings have been cancelled or postponed,
    - ii. Adult sports leagues have been cancelled,
    - iii. Youth sports leagues have been cancelled,
    - iv. Events have been cancelled, and

- v. Events at the Rotary Log Pavilion have been cancelled or postponed.
6. What is the City doing to protect City employees during COVID-19?
- a. Following public health advice, each Department is implementing policies and procedures to protect the health of both staff and the public, while still providing necessary services.
  - b. This includes alternative work schedules and remote work options to maintain social distancing, while still providing services to the public.
  - c. City staff are following procedures for social distancing, limited face-to-face interactions, and frequent hand washing and disinfecting.
  - d. City Hall has been generally closed to most public interactions, except for the first floor which operates through security glass.
  - e. City staff are provided certain levels of personal protective equipment (“PPE”) based on the type of work they do. For example, our first responders working in the Police Department and Fire Department have the highest level of PPE available for their staff.
  - f. The health and safety of our employees is of the utmost importance, and every effort is being made to ensure necessary PPE is available.
7. What is the City doing for individuals staying at the Temporary Alternative Shelter Location and other unsheltered or homeless people in Aberdeen?
- a. The City is in discussions with Grays Harbor County Public Health and Social Services (“PHSS”) department regarding a state grant they received to address COVID-19 related impacts to that vulnerable population.
    - i. One outcome of those discussions is that a hot water hand-washing station is being obtained to place at the TASL. The City is working diligently to get the hand-washing station placed at the TASL.
  - b. PHSS provided general guidance from the CDC and State Department of Health, which the City has posted and handed out to each person registered at the TASL.
  - c. The City has provided hand sanitizers at the TASL, and is encouraging social distancing – including plans to re-arrange tents to obtain better social distancing.
  - d. To implement additional social distancing protocols, the City has closed the TASL to visitors through the April 27 date in consideration of the timing of Governor Inslee’s closure of all schools.
  - e. The City continues to consult with PHSS regarding public health protocols.

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